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1845



In Prof. Murphey

with respects

Dunbar, J. R. W.

By Dr. Dunbar

CIRCULAR.

PRIVATE MEDICAL INSTITUTE

OF BALTIMORE.



For Chief Justice

Washington

1850

GENERAL

PRIVATE MEDICAL INSTITUTE

OF BALTIMORE



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C I R C U L A R

THE well-informed members of the Medical Profession in Europe and this country, are devoting great attention to a reform in medical education. Various plans for the improvement of the mode of public teaching in the medical schools have been suggested, doubtless of great value. The subject of private elementary instruction in the office of the preceptor has also occupied attention, but not so much as its great importance demands. The influence which the study of the elements of medicine must exert over the whole subsequent career of the physician no one will question. If the foundation be formed of bad materials, loosely put together, it will be impossible to rear a superstructure, which will either be useful or valuable. The study of the branches preparatory to attending lectures should be thorough. Every thing should be understood and completely mastered. Nothing should be slightly passed over or taken for granted, if it be possible to submit it to the examination of the senses. Observation and demonstration, should be the guiding stars, and the student should, whenever it is practicable, see and feel and examine every thing described by the masters of the art. Medicine thus studied, in the mode pointed out by nature, would no longer be that dry and uninteresting study which it is too often proclaimed to be by students; but would prove to be one of the most interesting, as it is one of the noblest and most important that can occupy the study of the human mind. Every step would be a pleasure to the student; for he would find that he was no longer engaged in advancing among shadows and doubts, but continually progressing on the sure and certain basis of demonstration.

The subscriber, ardently attached to his profession, the choice of early youth and the preference of more matured years, has, in pursuing his own improvement with a conscientious desire to possess all the means of acquiring knowledge, collected at a great expense, and with the labour of years, the materials which enable him to afford to the student of medicine a combination of peculiar advantages. These he will briefly detail, with the plan of study proposed. His private institution for students is in a large building adjoining his residence and office, located in a central and agreeable part of the city. The rooms are large, airy and well lighted,

communicating with balconies which may be used for exercise in unfavorable weather. His anatomical and surgical museum, and the adjacent apartments, will form the student's room for study, which will afford the advantage of being secluded from the intrusion of visitors or patients; and thus, every portion of the short time appropriated to medical study in this country will be profitably employed. In addition to the seclusion and retirement, the student has continually before him, wherever he may cast his eyes, the materials for demonstration, which will be referred to under their appropriate heads.

In *anatomy*, the foundation of all the other branches of practical medicine, peculiar facilities are afforded, consisting of *plates, casts, skeletons*, articulated and separated, *injected arterial preparations*, some of full size, but especially those triumphs of art, the anatomical models of Professor Auzoux, of Paris. As these are the first that have been imported into this city, a condensed description of them, extracted from the "Reports of the Royal Academy," will now be given:

"These models of Dr. Auzoux are formed of *Papier Mache*, a composition which is flexible and solid, and which receives and retains the most delicate impressions. The large preparation presents the anatomical subject deprived of the integuments and cellular membrane, and exhibits, true to life, the muscles, aponeuroses, cartilages, nerves, viscera, and blood vessels, with their form, color, and natural position. By means of ingenious sections *M. Auzoux* has succeeded in exhibiting all that relates to myology, angeology, neurology, and splanchnology; and even the bones are so naturally represented that it is not easy to distinguish them from the real bones of the dead body. The minutest parts of the human system, the most delicate as well as the most voluminous are exhibited with the greatest accuracy, in their forms, colours and connexions. The representations of the brain, heart, spinal marrow, lungs, liver, et cetera, are remarkably happy, and with an accuracy of detail, which has never been equalled. The academies of sciences and medicine have passed the highest encomiums on these admirable productions. The French Government have caused them to be placed in the military hospitals of instruction, and in a majority of the schools of medicine. Numbers of these models have been ordered for Russia, Turkey, and the West Indies, and have served to found schools of medicine in *Cairo*,

Constantinople, Persia and Syria. At the last exhibition of the products of French industry, the wonderful models of M. *Auzoux* were submitted to public examination, and were viewed as objects of great interest by the king, members of council, and the public journalists, and especially by the citizens, whose anxiety to examine the preparations was such that the administration was under the necessity of adopting measures to check the impulse which M. *Auzoux's* happy and natural delineation of the human subject had created.*

Pathological anatomy will be studied with morbid preparations, and in this department also, as well as in healthy anatomy, the student will be assisted by the skill of the French artist, as he will have access to those admirable pathological models lately imported from Paris, made by Dr. *Felix Thibert*, and which received the warmest encomiums of such Pathologists as *Andral, Breschet* and *Cruveilhier*, whose names are enrolled high upon the records of the profession. These models represent to the life *ulceration of the glands of Peyer*, pathognomic of typhus fever, *the condition of the larynx and bronchiæ in chronic laryngitis*, sometimes called clergyman's sore throat; also, in *bronchitis, disease of the kidney, polypus of the womb, ulceration of the bladder, fungus hæmatodes, apoplexy, diseases of the heart, tubercles of the lungs, pthisis, gangrene, fractures, necrosis, et cetera.* Opportunities will also be presented, during the course of study, for seeing the actual condition of the various organs and structures in the autopsies of public or private practice.

A very superior Solar Microscope, magnifying more than three millions of times, has been lately purchased and set up in his Anatomical Museum, which will afford valuable aid in the study of the fluids and the internal structure of the various parts of the body, healthy and diseased, which investigations promise important discoveries in anatomy, physiology and pathology.

Materia Medica will be illustrated by drawings and a large and

* The facilities afforded by these inimitable preparations may be judged of by the fact stated in the Report of Baron *Charles Dupin* to the Central Committee of French Industry, as follows: "The workmen employed by M. *Auzoux*, even the most illiterate, are all in a condition to teach the science. One of his pupils, taken from the country, who scarcely knew how to read, has become, in three years, a learned anatomist. He now resides at Cairo, is eminently distinguished, and not yet twenty years of age."

Physicians who may visit Baltimore, are cordially invited to see these models of *Auzoux* and *Thibert*, which must be to every medical man objects of interest and curiosity.

beautiful collection of choice specimens of each medicinal article, selected with great care in order to procure the best specimens, by one of our pharmacutists, alike distinguished for his science and practical skill in this department. The student will also have an opportunity of making up prescriptions in the office, and thus become familiarized with the practical details of the profession, which will be of daily use in after life.

Chemistry, by an arrangement with a professor of that branch, will be taught experimentally in the laboratory, the only true way to learn it. This will be without additional expense to the pupil.

The Practice of Medicine.—The facilities connected with this branch are highly important. After a full course of reading of the best writers on practice, the student can witness the daily treatment of a variety of cases in private practice, and visit frequently the wards of the hospital and infirmaries connected with the medical schools of this city, and learn disease where it is only to be truly learned, not from books alone, but from the faithful teachings of nature at the bedside. Here, at all hours of the day and night, is this great teacher giving lessons full of the most precious instruction; and all she asks of the pupil is an humble and devoted attention to her precepts. At a more advanced period of his studies, when he is prepared for it, the invaluable advantage of a Resident student at one of the hospitals can be obtained for him, one so much sought for by young men of commendable ambition, but which, it is to be regretted, from the construction of hospitals in this country, can be granted to but few.

It may be important to state here, under the head of the Practice of Medicine, that particular attention will be devoted to the instruction of the pupil in the use of the *Stethoscope*, and the knowledge of *auscultation* and *percussion*, so indispensable to a correct *diagnosis* of the diseases of the *lungs* and *heart*, and of great practical value in other departments of the science. From peculiar advantages enjoyed by the subscriber, derived from personal instructions from some of the most eminent men in this country in that department, he feels justified in offering to students these important aids to practice.

The practical details of *obstetrics* will be exhibited with the *manakin* and *machine* which were long used before his class by a professor of that department in one of the medical schools of this country. The condition of the *fetus*, at different stages of gestation, will be illustrated by the beautiful obstetrical models of Au-

zoux. His female model for the same purpose will also be procured for the students.

In the department of Surgery the late situation of the subscriber as a public teacher, for some years, of that branch, will enable him to afford peculiar advantages. He has a large supply of the materials for profitable study and illustration of this branch. His library contains the standard works on that subject, and he has a very full collection of instruments, comprehending those for *amputation, trephining, lithotomy, lithotripsy, aneurism*, operations on the mouth and lips; on the eye, cataract, &c.; on the ear, for deformities; besides a large collection of *splints* and *bandages* for the treatment of *luxations* and for *dressing*. The application of all the various bandages will be taught on the living subject; and every student, before he leaves the office, and care of the preceptor, will be carried through a complete series of the different operations of surgery, so as to acquire that dexterity in the use of instruments, and neatness in the application of dressings, so important to success in his future professional career.

Since the subscriber has been appointed surgeon to the University hospital, he has been enabled to exhibit to his pupils a large number of operations, such as *amputations, aneurism, extirpation of various tumors, fistula, hydrocele, &c.*, embracing most of the important operations of surgery, besides what is of more moment to the general practitioner, a great variety of the cases coming under the general practice of the surgeon, as ulcers, wounds, contusions, luxations, fracture, stricture, &c. &c.*

The library of the subscriber, miscellaneous and medical, is well selected, consisting of about 1500 volumes, many of which were imported from London and Paris, comprising the standard authors in each department of medicine.

The advantages of pursuing the study of medicine in a city where such valuable aids are afforded, are often weighed against the additional expense incurred by such a residence. We think that no judicious parent, after being duly informed of the difference, would hesitate a moment as to the impropriety of permitting the inconsiderable additional expense to be a barrier to his son's enjoying every opportunity of acquiring a profession which is to be his future dependence for support, and which may yield both fame and

*The chair of Surgery in the University, has been resigned by Dr. D., in order to devote himself exclusively to his private practice, and private Institute for medical students.

fortune. For so great is the competition now in the profession of medicine that eminence is only to be attained by those who add to great industry superior qualifications. We do most sincerely believe that the plan of study proposed in this circular, if faithfully adhered to by the student, will greatly abridge some of those years of waiting for practice, which lead to idle habits, dissipation and ultimate ruin. We would avail ourselves of this opportunity to say, in passing, that the course of study is calculated to prepare the student for attendance on lectures in any institution in our country; and as we are no longer connected with any medical school, we shall not interfere with the wishes of the parent, or himself, in reference to the city or school where he may desire to attend lectures; so far as we are concerned he shall be free to select for himself.

Finally, we wish it to be distinctly understood, that as it is our design to devote only so much of our time to our pupils as will be compatible with an increasing public and private practice, their number must necessarily be limited, and in no case would we consent to receive into our office any young man of immoral or dissipated habits. It would be unjust to those young men already under our care, and unfair to the profession to be instrumental in introducing such persons into its ranks. Nor do we wish to receive any one who has not a just idea of the dignity and responsibility of the profession he has chosen, and has not set a high mark for his aspirations, and determined to study faithfully and perseveringly to become a worthy follower of the bright lights of medicine who have preceded him in the arduous paths of study and practice. We shall feel proud and honored to be selected as the companion and guide of the studies and efforts of any young man who is inspired with a high sense of the responsibility and dignity of the profession, and is determined to press on with every nerve in the race of usefulness and honorable ambition.

Terms.—The terms will, for the present, be the same as those of other preceptors—\$200 *in advance* for the whole period of study. Students will also be received for the single year at \$100, or for the winter session at \$50, which will include all the tickets to the lectures of the subscriber, public and private. Any parent or student desiring additional information will obtain the same by addressing

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